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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

LAMB PRODUCTION

A special scenic exhibit showing the best methods to use in the production of good lambs.

Specifications.

Floor Space required - width - - - - - 13 feet.
depth - - - - - 11 feet.

Wall Space required - - - - - None.

Shipping Weight - - - - - 939 lbs.

Electrical Requirements - 110 volt A. C. current
for 1/8 H. P. motor. 1300 watts needed for
lights.

LAMB PRODUCTION

How It Looks.

The exhibit contains a special electrical flashing feature in the middle section which tends to attract people to it. In the center of seven transparencies, showing pictures illustrating good practices in raising sheep, is a circular light and from it runs a transparent direction arrow to each one of the pictures.

Each picture and its direction arrow light up, in rotation, for a few seconds enabling the onlooker to read and understand the lesson conveyed by the illustration.

The left section of the booth shows by means of two large painted photographs the value of the practice known as "flushing" ewes. On the right section are two painted illustrations and text showing the value of good rams over that of scrub rams.

What It Tells.

All wise shepherds appreciate the advantage of having as many lambs dropped and raised per 100 ewes as possible.

The United States Department of Agriculture has worked out a system of feeding the ewes at breeding time in order to increase the number of twins produced. This system is known as "flushing" and it has been tried out with excellent results for 6 years in the Government's flocks at Middlebury, Vermont, and Beltsville, Maryland.

Throughout those 6 years, 100 unflushed ewes produced 128 lambs each year on the average; while 100 ewes which were given this special feeding care produced an average of 147 lambs each year.

The exhibit points out that fresh grass pasture, soybeans and cowpeas are excellent flushing feeds. Mixed grain or oats should be used when pastures are dry and fresh foliage is not available.

The flushing should begin at least two weeks before breeding and continue until conception. Ewes should gain at least seven pounds during the flushing period.

The use of purebred rams of good quality, provision of abundant pastures for the flock, feeding the lambs grain when necessary, prevention and treatment of parasites, docking all lambs, and castrating the market lambs, are points which it will pay the sheep man to keep in mind.

A picture is shown of a flock of scrub lambs which averaged only 36 pounds on the market and brought only 3 cents a pound. Contrasted with this is an illustration of choice lambs sired by purebred rams. These choice lambs averaged 82 pounds and brought 16-1/2 cents a pound on the market.

Where to Get Information.

The following bulletins discuss various phases of lamb production dealt with in this exhibit:

Farmers' Bulletin 840, Sheep Raising for Beginners.

Farmers' Bulletin 1134, Castrating and Docking Lambs.

Farmers' Bulletin 1181, Sheep Raising on Temporary Pastures.

Farmers' Bulletin 1151, Diseases of Sheep.

